

**TIGHT SPACES AND ITS LIVABILITY**

AN OVERVIEW OF QUALITATIVE ATTRIBUTES IN URBAN TIGHT SPATIAL HABITATIONS TO  
EXPRESS ITS LIVABILITY AS APPOSED TO CROWDED BEHAVIOR.

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Sirithunga D.R.K  
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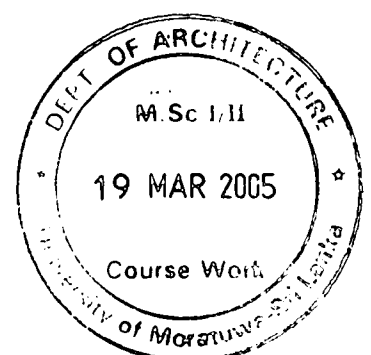
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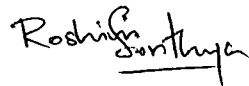
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## DECLARATION

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I declare that this dissertation represent my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made and this has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report or report submitted to this university or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.



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## ABSTRACT

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**"Man being is living organism requires certain needs to be satisfied to survive in the environment. Architecture is essential product of human life. Architecture enhances the character of the place. In relation to human body has added value. Meaningful orchestration of space reflects the architectural space." Norberg-Zhults (1971:13)**

Livability is a quality of an environment, which is experienced by people. Everybody knows what livable environment is, but the problem is as to how it can be achieved in tight spatial habitations. There have been many previous attempts to outline a set of criteria for a livable or a good city. In this study more attention is given to understand as how this livability can be achieved particularly in urban tight living entities.

Most of the tight spaces that create comfortable and more livable environment have evolved through long period of time, and most of them are bound primarily to situational and universal components. In fact the universal component of human behaviour plays a very vital role in identifying the strategies for more livable environments. Therefore tight spaces change emerged as one of the prime characteristics of a livable environment. These changes may range from the change of the entire environment, to the sense of change.

Indeed a city is more than building and spaces. The essence of the city is life. Cities come in to being in response to human needs. In the same way cities are juggled according to the degree that those needs are satisfied. In this process of creating livable city is an important achievement of man. It suggests his capacity to use his creativity to organize spaces around for himself, for a better way of life. All of cities nowadays, are developing towards the sky. In order to development of city resulted being placed on vertical city as opposed to horizontal tight spatial development. This was happened due to the scarcity of land. But those spaces are developed as low scale urban tight spaces. This has become a general spatial structure of the future scenarios of urban tight spaces as opposed to crowded behaviors and to derive livability of urban tight spaces.

In parallel a strong view is being grown within a concrete jungle. Is it the tight urban development that makes as miserable within the city or is the inappropriate composition of it that shuttled whole of the city life. We as well the designers of environments for the well being of man must attempt to explore means and ways of answering the above in order to ensure our environment to be livable.



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## INTRODUCTION

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### Observation

During the late twentieth century the Demographic explosion caused many problems one of them being crowding. The general belief on the matter is that crowding is associated with high-density situations and that it is a negative phenomenon. The spatial need of a human being is a very complex issue. Livings in tight spaces are nothing new. People have lived in restricted spaces from the dawn of man. However most of these spaces, which are unconscious attempts, evolved through history. Where one's space is restricted physically and emotionally, it will create tightness of space: Tight space.

People have made attempts at understanding this phenomenon both consciously and unconsciously since the advent civilization, with varying degree of success. In here it will be attempted is to understand and analyze the restrictive urban tight space with social, cultural, physiological as the psychological factors in mind. Furthermore, it is extended to understand principles and strategies that make those restrictive spaces more livable.

### Criticality of the observation

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were some attempts made to explore the minimum space needed by humans to function comfortably with physiologically as well as psychologically. These studies explore the evolution of tight spatial habitation towards present urban tight living and possible approach to future of tight urban spaces and its livability.

The demographic explosion is major cause of many problems threatening the very existence of modern day civilization. Poverty, crime, delinquency, aggression, de-individualization, social insecurity and inflation, to name a few strongly believed to be aggravated, if not caused, by population. To further worsen matters, these problems are so interwoven that arise in one factor could lead to increases in the others as well. According to the statistics, Sri Lanka have 10<sup>th</sup> heights population in the world since 1996.

As a consequence more and more people are to under grow in tight spaces. Needless to say that these have implication of our environment and. Undoubtedly, it is important to study the way which space and what its many ramifications are on society, as well as the changes in social valve and changes on individuals under these circumstances. Ways of using limited resources while taking stock of the ill effect of crowding should be suggested. As architects we cannot escape these realities in which we build.

### **Intention of the study**

The intentions of this study explore the evolution of tight spatial habitation towards present urban tight living and possible approach to future of tight urban spaces and its livability. At the end of this study an attempt is done to derive strategies that can create more livable environment in tight spaces.

The overall objective is to discuss how people and architects deal with space people interface. The discussion will continue on how they would be better able to orient them self toward the high-density option which creates restrictive space while not neglecting the socio cultural psychological and behavioral needs of man.



### **Method of the study**

The following discussion will attempt to study tight spaces where human live in extremely stress full and specially limited situation. Historical and contemporary attempts at dealing with such situation their strategies and degrees of success will be analyses. Most of these examples were selected there continuing of long-term ability to influence for urban tight societies. Also the strategies used in these selections will be examined in order to gain inside in to the relation ship between tight spaces and livability. Finally the study will illustrate this view with case studies to elaborate on the principal and strategies examined.

### **Scope and limitations**

This study explores the evolution of tight spatial habitation towards present urban tight living and possible approach to future of tight urban spaces and its livability. As stated earlier the crowding and other issues leading to tight spaces are socio special phenomenon of very complex in nature. For the particular study how ever the discussion will be limited to the architect point of view.

**Study is illustrated through case study based analysis.** In order to realize the aims and objectives the following methodologies are adopted.

- ❑ Introducing the space as a basic element of experiencing.
- ❑ Introduce the concept of "tight space".
- ❑ Applications of the hypothesis developed on the concept of urban tight living and bring out particular examples for further illustrations.
- ❑ Create an approach for the present and future situation of urban tight living.
- ❑ Derive the strategies for future of tight urban living and its livability.

